

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Method of forming fiducial marks on a micro-sized article supportedly mounted on a first surface of a transparent medium, said transparent medium having a second surface opposite said first surface, comprising:

forming at least one optical feature adjacent said micro-sized article at a predetermined location on said first surface of said transparent medium;

altering at least a portion of said second surface of said transparent medium;

directing a collimated beam of light onto said at least one optical feature, said at least one optical feature focusing said collimated beam of light onto said second surface thereby forming a correspondingly precisely located at least one fiducial mark thereon opposite said at least one optical feature.

2. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said collimated beam of light is produced by a laser.

3. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said at least one optical feature has a predetermined configuration.

4. The method recited in claim 3 wherein said predetermined configuration of said at least one optical feature is generally circular thereby forming a generally circular fiducial mark on said second surface.

5. The method recited in claim 3 wherein said predetermined configuration of said at least one optical feature is generally linear thereby forming a generally linear fiducial mark on said second surface.

6. The method recited in claim 3 wherein said predetermined configuration of said at least one optical feature is generally crossed linear thereby forming a generally crossed linear fiducial mark on said second surface.

7. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of ablating said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

8. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one optical feature includes the step of diamond milling.

9. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one optical feature includes the step of diamond turning.

10. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one optical feature includes the step of indentation.

11. The method recited in claim 3 wherein said predetermined configuration of said at least one optical feature is generally a diffractive element thereby producing a generally complex-shaped at least one fiducial mark.

12. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of painting said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

13. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of metallizing said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

14. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of vacuum coating said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

15. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of roughening said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

16. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of spin coating said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

17. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of altering includes the step of dip coating said at least a portion of said second surface so as to distinguish said at least one fiducial mark formed thereon.

18. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one fiducial mark and forming said at least one optical article each includes the step of diamond milling.

19. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one fiducial mark and forming said at least one optical article each includes the step of diamond turning.

20. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one fiducial mark and forming said at least one optical article each includes the step of lithographic printing.

21. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said step of forming said at least one fiducial mark and forming said at least one optical article each includes the step of ink jet printing.

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